

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a data path output unit to output a packet header, the packet header including:

a format field to partially specify the packet header format; and

a type field to specify a transaction type.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the format field and the type field together specify the packet header format.

3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the format field indicates the size of the packet header.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the format field further indicates whether the packet includes data.

5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the format field and the type field are located in the first byte of the packet header to be output by the data path output unit.

6. An apparatus, comprising:

a data path input unit to receive a packet header, the packet header including:

a format field to partially specify the packet header format; and

a type field to specify a transaction type.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the format field and the type field together specify the packet header format.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the format field indicates the size of the packet header.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the format field further indicates whether the packet includes data.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the format field and the type field are located in the first byte of the packet header to be received by the data path input unit.

11. An system, comprising:

a transmitting device to transmit a packet header, the packet header including a format field to partially specify the packet header format and a type field to specify a transaction type; and

a receiving device couple to the transmitting device, the receiving device to receive the packet header.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the format field and the type field together specify the packet header format.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the format field indicates the size of the packet header.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the format field further indicates whether the packet includes data.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the transmitting device and the receiving device are coupled via a serial interface.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the format field and the type field are located in the first byte of the packet header to be output by the transmitting device.